

KEITH R. ANDERSON et al.  
Application No.: 09/500,887  
Page 3

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application, claims 20 and 21, are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

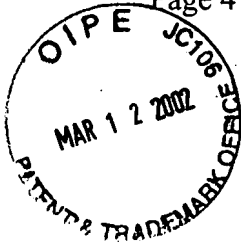
If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth R. Allen  
Reg. No. 27,301

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: (650) 326-2400  
Fax: (650) 326-2422  
KRA:deh



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2002  
Technology Center 2600

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 15-20 as follows:

15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [14] 20, wherein the hub is largely housed out of doors within environmentally controlled housings.

16. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [15] 20, wherein the hub is powered by power sources emanating from a plurality of the buildings.

17. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [16] 20, wherein one or more of the communicating stations comprises a residence.

18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [17] 20, further comprising a protective pedestal housing at least a portion of the nodes.

19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [18] 20, further comprising physical security data transmitted from a plurality of the individual communicating stations to a central security office over the plurality of branching nodes.

20. (Amended) An apparatus for linking communication stations within a geographical region in computer communication, comprising:

a high speed backbone;

a plurality of branching nodes connected to the high speed backbone;

a plurality of communicating stations communicating over the backbone through the nodes, the nodes each housed in different buildings;

the plurality of branching nodes comprising a hub directly connected with the plurality of branching nodes and directly interconnecting the plurality of communicating stations in digital communication;

a power concentrator located within one or more of the branching nodes, the power concentrator receiving power from a plurality of communicating stations in communication with the branching node and powering the branching node with the received power, the received power being redundant, in that one or more of the communicating stations can go off-line without stopping power to the branching node;

[The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising] a home connection box having quick-connect types of connectors for connecting a communicating station with [a] the hub, the connectors including a network communications connector and a power connector for supplying power from the communicating station to the hub.